Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Previously Presented)   A method for converting multimedia information comprising the steps of:

requesting multimedia information from a converter;

receiving the multimedia information along with conversion hints;

converting the multimedia information in accordance with the conversion hints,

wherein the converter is a transcoder and the converter hints are transcoding hints; and,

providing the multimedia information to the requester.

19.   (Currently Amended)   The   method   for   converting   multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise image cropping transcoding hints selected from the group consisting of:

information about a desired cropping location and shape;

whether it is preferable to provide a full version of the image with a reduced background quality; and

whether it is preferable to crop the image to only contain a specific region of interest.

20.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a bandwidth range that represents a range in bandwidth that a video sequence can be transcoded to.

21.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a computational complexity that indicates the amount of processing power that a conversion algorithm consumes.

22.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a quality range that indicates a measurement of how much a peak signal to noise ratio is lowered by performing transcoding.

23.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including motion vector predictors starting and ending frames for motion vector refinements.

24.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints relating to frame rate reduction, including identification of key frames to be excluded from being dropped.

25.   (Currently Amended and Withdrawn)   The   method   for   converting multimedia information recited in claim 18,

wherein said conversion hints comprise a video mixing transcoding hint associated with a portion of the video in which additional information can be displayed.

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